



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

SITE:	GE
BREAK:	1.2
OTHER:	

10086219



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 5, 2003

From: Joel Hansel, Environmental Scientist
Water Management Division

To: Kay Wischkaemper, Hydrogeologist
Waste Management Division

Re: Assessment of PCBs in Fish Tissue for the Coosa River
Downstream of Rome, GA

Current Status of State Advisories for PCBs on the Coosa River

The State of Georgia uses a risk based advisory process similar to that outlined in EPA's Guidance for Assessing Chemical Contaminant Data for Use in Fish Advisories (EPA 823-B-00-008). Currently, the State has advisories for PCBs on two segments of the mainstem of the Coosa River. The advisories are as follows (a meal is an 8 oz. Serving):

Coosa River (River Mile Zero to Hwy 100)

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	River Mile 2, Rome	1 meal/month	PCBs
Spotted Bass	See above	1 meal/week	PCBs, Mercury
Stripped Bass	See above	1 meal/month	PCBs
Blue Catfish	See above	1 meal/month	PCBs
Smallmouth Buffalo	See above	Do Not Eat	PCBs

Coosa River (Hwy 100 to Stateline)

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Smallmouth Buffalo	Below Hwy 100 and at Bushy Branch	1 meal/month	PCBs
Largemouth Bass	See above	1 meal/week	PCBs
Stripped Bass	See above	1 meal/month	PCBs
Spotted Bass	See above	No restrictions	
Channel Catfish	See above	1 meal/month	PCBs

Source: Guidelines For Eating Fish From Georgia Waters 2003 Update, GADNR

The State of Alabama uses a fish advisory process based on the U.S. FDA Action Level for parameters of concern. Currently, the State of Alabama has three advisories of note

on the mainstem of the Coosa River or reservoirs associated with the mainstem. The advisories are as follows:

Coosa River (Between Riverside and the Alabama-Georgia Stateline)

Species	Species Size	Population	Chemical
Catfish	> 1 lb.	Restricted-Gen Pop	PCBs

Coosa River (Between Logan Martin Dam and Riverside)

Species	Species Size	Population	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	N/A	No Consumption	PCBs
Spotted Bass	N/A	No Consumption	PCBs
Stripped Bass	N/A	No Consumption	PCBs
Stripped Hybrid	N/A	No Consumption	PCBs
Catfish	N/A	No Consumption	PCBs

Coosa River (Croft Ferry Area of Neely Henry Reservoir)

Species	Species Size	Population	Chemical
Channel Catfish	N/A	No Consumption	PCBs

Source: U.S. EPA National Listing of Fish and Wildlife Advisories

Analysis of EPA Data Collected November and December 2002 and Advisory
Determination Based on EPA Methodology

EPA SESD collected fish tissue samples in November and December 2002 from 7 sites along the Coosa River mainstem in Georgia and Alabama. EPA compared these data to its *Guidance for Assessing Chemical Contaminant Data for Use in Fish Advisories Volume 2: Risk Assessment and Fish Consumption Limits*, EPA 823-B-00-008, November 2002, specifically the PCB table found on page 4-26 and the cancer health endpoint fish tissue concentrations. Based on this assessment, EPA would issue the following consumption advice (assumes an 8 oz. meal size, 10-5 cancer risk, and 70 year exposure period):

Coosa River (Mile 2, Rome)

Species	Geomean Conc. (ppm)	Recommendation	Chemical
Smallmouth Buffalo	0.65	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Spotted Bass	0.47	Do Not Eat	PCBs

Coosa River (Hwy 100)

Species	Geomean Conc. (ppm)	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	0.19	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Largemouth Bass	0.11	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Smallmouth Buffalo	0.58	Do Not Eat	PCBs

Coosa River (Bushy Branch)

Species	Geomean Conc. (ppm)	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	0.33	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Smallmouth Buffalo	0.14	Do Not Eat	PCBs

Lake Weiss (Near Alexis, AL)

Species	Geomean Conc. (ppm)	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	0.27	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Smallmouth Buffalo	0.34	Do Not Eat	PCBs

Lake Weiss (Hwy 411, Leesburg, AL)

Species	Geomean Conc. (ppm)	Recommendation	Chemical
Blue Catfish	0.23	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Spotted Bass	0.31	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Largemouth Bass	0.19	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Smallmouth Buffalo	0.47	Do Not Eat	PCBs

Upper Neely Henry Reservoir (Near Murrycross, AL)

Species	Geomean Conc. (ppm)	Recommendation	Chemical
Spotted Bass	0.37	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Largemouth Bass	0.17	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Smallmouth Buffalo	0.46	Do Not Eat	PCBs

Lake Logan Martin (Near Riverside)

Species	Geomean Conc. (ppm)	Recommendation	Chemical
Blue Catfish	0.12	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Spotted Bass	0.42	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Largemouth Bass	0.14	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Channel Catfish	0.42	Do Not Eat	PCBs